

Murd'ring Ministers

Issue #60

July 1, 1983

STUFF

MURD'RING MINISTERS is a gamezine dedicated to the postal play of DIPLOMACY, MACHIAVELLI, and other multi-player pbm games. MM is published by that little old main minister, Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304 - phone: (805) 834-8409. Subscriptions are \$5.50/12 issues; 50¢ each if purchased in smaller increments.

This is the 5th today as I'm typing this up and finishing ~~up~~ the zine. A week ago, last Mon. and Tues., we were at Disneyland. I took the wife and kids along with some other family members (three cars total) and traveled to the Magic Kingdom. Corey is 3½ now and was really wanting to go. Andy at 2 yrs. old didn't have any idea what he was in for. Anyway, we spent two days there and the boys really had quite an experience. I had quite an experience too when we were dining at the Tiki Terrace restaurant in Adventure Land. We got the best table in the place - right in front of the stage. After dinner (the steak was great) a Hawaiian show was performed. The four girls were very lovely (ouch! Sorry, Char!) Naturally when the part of the show arrived where the girls select a member of the audience to dance the hula with them, one of them picked me! I think it was my Mickey Mouse shirt. Anyhow, I ~~kno~~cked 'em dead with my nimble hips!

Larry Peery, PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102, is conducting the "1983 Power Pole" to find out who the 30 most powerful people in the hobby today are. Sounds ludicrous. You are urged to send Larry a SASE for a copy of the poll form. You will be voting for the 30 people you feel are the most influential and the 30 you think most people will choose!

The Eminent Awards deadline is closing in at August 5, 1983. Look on the bottom of page 11 for a voting form. You are strongly encouraged to support these. The Awards are run by Mike Mills, 26 Laurel Rd., Sloatsburg, NY 10974.

Bruce Linsey, Mark Luedi, Jim Williams, and Garry Hamlin are hosting the "Origins '83 Beer Blast" at the Book Cadillac Hotel, 4½ blocks from the con site, following the Gunboat Tournament. All of you attending ORIGINS are invited. Bring your own bottle and be prepared to toast something which deserves it.

Last issue I printed a NIXON nomination from Tim Winger about Dixie Gray. The latest EUROPA EXPRESS (#25) contains a letter from Kelli Woodson stating she is 18 and attending Oklahoma State University and that "Dixie Gray" was her alias. My wife Char is in a game with "Dixie" . . .

And speaking of the game Char's in, the original gamemaster is back from his Mexican sojourn: none other than the irrepressible Jack Fleming. Jack has spent the last 5 months in Mexico having a great time. Now that he is back he will resume publishing PARANOIACS' MONTHLY. Terry Tallman (NORTH SEALTH, WEST GEORGE) deserves a pat on the back for his handling of Jack's games while he was away. Welcome back, Jack!

THE GAMES!!!!

1981D SUMMER 1912 E/G DRAW FAILS! English A StP-r-OTB.

1981D FALL 1912 ENGLAND GETS REDUCED WHILE GERMANS WISH THEY HAD ROOM TO BUILD!!

England (Arnawoodian): F NTH-c-German A Bel-Nwy/NSO/; F NWG-H; F Den-H/d/-r-Hel,
SkA,OTB; A KIE-Hol; A HOL-Bel; F ENG-s-A Hol-Bel; A PIC-Par;
 F BRE-H; F MAR-H; F ION-H; F TYS, F ADR & F NAP-s-F Ion;
 F Wes-TUN.

France (Gray): A PAR-Bre.

Germany (Langley): A BEL-Hol; A RUH-s-A Bel-Hol; A Bur-MUN; A Mun-BER; F BAL-
 s-F Swe-Den; F Swe-DEN; F Bot-SWE; A StP-FIN; A Mos-STP;
 A Tus-ROM; A VEN-s-A Tus-Rom; A TRI-s-Turkish F Alb.

Turkey (MacFarlane): F AEG-Ion; F ALB, F GRE & F EAS-s-F Aeg-Ion; A Bul-SER.

Winter 1912 AND Spring 1913 due August 5, 1983.

1981D 1912 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Nwy,~~StP~~,Por,Spa,Tun,Nap,~~Rum~~,~~Den~~,Mar,Kie,Hol,Bre...(12)-2

Germany- Ber,Mun,Vie,Tri,Bud,Ven,~~Sev~~,Rum,Sev,Mos,War,Swe,Bel,DEN,STP,ROM..(15)+3 (no

France- Par.....(1) 0 room to build)

Turkey- Home,Bul,Gre,SER.....(6)+1

1981D Press-

SWITZERLAND: Our London correspondent reports that the heads of the English govern-
 ment are angry over the obtuseness shown by the German leaders. "So we tried to win
 it all. Is that a crime so black that they won't trust us now?"

* * * * *

1982IT WINTER 1902

Austria- No Adj

Italy- No Adj

England- F Bel-r-NTH;Disbands F Lpl

Russia- Builds A MOS, A WAR

France- F Eng-r-PIC

Turkey- Builds F SMY

Germany- Builds A KIE

1982IT SPRING 1903 ENGLISH SURPRISE KRAUT ARMY PREPARING FOR FRENCH INVASION!

Austria (Gorham): A TRI-Vie; A ALB-Tri; A SER-Bud; F Gre-H/a/.

England (Baldwin): F Nth-BEL; F ENG-s-F Nth-Bel; F LON-Nth.

France (Wilson): A GAS-s-A Bur; A BUR & F PIC-s-English F Eng-Bel/NSO/; F Mid-NAT;
 F Spa(sc)-MID.

Germany (J.Lahue): A DEN-H; A Bel-Bur/a/; A Kie-RUH; A MUN-s-A Bel-Bur; F HOL-Nth;
A BOH-Vie.

Italy (Stowe): A NAF-H; A VEN-Tri; F Aeg-GRE; F ION-s-F Aeg-Gre.

Russia (Hugh): F Nwy-SKA; F StP(nc)-NWY; A Mos-STP; A War-SIL; A GAL-s-A Bud;
A BUD & A RUM-s-Turkish A Bul-Ser/NSO/; F SEV-s-A Rum.

Turkey (Albrecht): F Con-AEG; F SMY & F EAS-s-F Con-AEG; A BUL-Gre.

Fall 1903 due August 5, 1983.

1982IT Press-

RUSSIA-GERMANY: J. Williams once taught me a lesson in diplomacy and I'm just
 wondering if it worked??

RUSSIAN TABLETTEA: You can never tell, from where one sits, where the man in
 the balcony is about to spit. True words of wisdom --- words, of wisdom!

RUSSIA-ITALY: Please accept my apology for the red, green, and blue press last
 time. (I like the green ones best). How's the vacation in North Africa?

ITALY-RUSSIA: Male chauvinist pig? My bumper sticker says, "Honk if you love
 pork." You know, it's not pretty being easy.

RUSSIA-AUSTRIA: Would you like a blind-fold, last cigarette or to make one last
 profound statement before we prepare for your wake???

* * * * *

"Superfluity comes sooner by white hairs, but competency lives longer."

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE I,ii,9.

1983F SPRING*1902 TREATIES FORM AS FRONTS DEVELOP!
 Austria (Hare): A Ser-RUM; A Bud-GAL; A Vie-TYA; A TRI-s-A Vie-Tya; F GRE-Ion.
 England (Donop): F Nwy-SWE; F Nth-BEL; F Lon-ENG; A WAL-H.
 France (Goburn): F Mid-WAT; F Bre-MID; A Par-PIC; A Spa-GAS; A Por-SPA.
 Germany (Gardner): A SIL-s-Austrian A Bud-Gal; A Ber-PRU; A MUN-Tya; A HOL-repairs
 dykes(H); F Den-NTH.
 Italy (Cannon): A VEN-H; A TUN-H; F NAP-Ion; F Ion-EAS.
 Russia (Scheifler): A WAR-Gal; A UKR-Gal; F BOT-s-English F Nwy-Swe; F Arm-SEV.
 Turkey (Schwautz): A Ank-ARM; F BLA-s-A Ank-Arm; A BUL-s-Austrian A Ser-Rum; F Smy-AEG.
 Fall 1902 due August 5, 1983.

1983F Press-
 COA - Ty Hare, Summer Session/14115, 425 Van Buren St. Box 1978, Monterey, CA 93940.
 BERLIN-ROMA: Hey! I sent you a letter before I got your COA via MM and it bounced!
 That is, it was returned, but the news in it was moldy now so I burned it. Oh well . . .
 VIENNA-BERLIN: Don't worry, this is just to protect us from Italian treachery.
 TURKEY-AUSTRIA: I didn't care about taking Rumania after all they speak a romance
 language.
 VIENNA-ROME: Don't worry, this is just to protect us from German treachery.
 BERLIN: The German High Command has reason to suspect the truthfulness of England's
 dispatches and purity of her intentions. We will not sit still for this betrayal,
 and the Imperial Fleet will therefore be prepared for battle.
 TURKEY-AUSTRIA: No offense.
 ROME: It is recently been pointed out th His Humbleness Pope Michalangelo that the
 Infidels in Turkey are still there. The Pope has decided that this is a good time for
 a cleanup operation.
 ITALY: "Onward Christian Soldiers,
 Marching on to War . . ."

1981CT READJUDICATION PROPOSAL FAILS! GREENWOOD RESIGNS! THE NEW PORTE IS DAN GORHAM!
 1981CT SUMMER 1909 Turkish F Tri-r-ALB.

1981CT FALL 1909 POPE PETER PAUL POPE'S PAST PURSUIT! F/E DRAW PROPOSED!

Austria (Johnson): A VIE-Bud; A TRI-s-A Vie-Bud; A VEN-s-A Tri.
 England (Fassio): A Lon-SWE; F NTH & F SKA-c-A Lon-SWE; F BAR-H; A StP-MOS;
 A LVN-s-French A Pru-War; A BER-s-French A Mun-Sil; A Kie-PRU;
 F BAL-c-A Kie-Pru.
 France (Hanson): F TUN-s-F Ion; F TYS & F ION & F EAS-c-Italian A Rom-Smy;
 A Pie-TUS; F Mid-WES; A Mun-SIL; A Pru-WAR.
 Italy (J. Williams): A Rom-SMY; F NAP-s-French F Ion.
 Russia (Rodriguez): A Sil-lays down Arms & Surrenders(H)-/d/.
 Turkey (Gorham): F ADR-Ion; F ALB-s-F ADR-Ion; F Gre-AEG; F Bla-CON; A RUM-Bud;
 A SER-s-A Rum-Bud; A War--H/d/-r-Ukr,Gal,OTB.

Winter 1909 AND Spring 1910 due August 5, 1983. A E/F Draw is proposed. Please vote with

1981CT 1909 Supply Center Chart your next orders remembering that 'NVR'='yes'!

Austria- Bud,Vie,M Ven,TRI.....(4)+1
 England- Home,Den,Swe,Kie,Nwy,Hol,StP,BER,MOS.....(11)+2
 France- Home,Spa,Por,Tun,Bel,Mun,WAR.....(9)+1
 Italy- Nap,Rom,SMY.....(3)+1
 Russia- Ber.....(0) OUT
 Turkey- Con,Ank,Smy,Bul,Gre,War,Mos,Sev,Rum,Ser,Tri.....(7) 0

* There is also
 a proposal for a
 Concession to Italy!
 Vote on both!!!!

1981CT Press-

BAKERSFIELD-WORLD: When Italy NMR'd last time, I noted that if Jim NMR'd out that
 Italy would be placed in CD. A Player wrote and requested that if Jim did drop the game,
 that a standby be called. Please note that you have the right to do so. If I ever
 announce that a power will be placed in CD, and you think it should have a standby
 take over, just let me know and I'll call a standby because of your request. I usually
 will place a power in CD rather than call a etandby if it is only a 1 or 2 center power;
 and base the decision at least paartially on the current postion. But you have the
 ((Con'd next pg.))

1981GT (Con'd)

right to request a standby player if you disagree with my opinion. Just thought you might like to know.

LONDON: Crowds in front of Westminster Abbey, delirious with joy over their bloodless victories over Turkey, now clamor for more territory! Soon all of the Turkish-encroached Czarland will become ours.

LONDON-PARIS: We make a fine pair, good sir! Continued success with the Turkish offensive, and we'll meet in Sevastopol.

ROME: Pope Peter Paul Escapes! (AP) Pope Peter Paul I, the presiding Polish Pontiff previously purloined from the private papal palace in Palermo, slipped away from his Turkish captors during the recent confusion among high ranking Turkish officials. X The Pontiff is now safe back at his Vatican residence.

The Pope was held for 19 days in Turkish Emir Saalam Quiche Greenwood's summer palace in Constantinople. The kidnapping was part of a plot sanctioned by the Turkish government, to blackmail Italy into siding with the Turks in their bloody war against what they refer to as "the western doo-doo duo".

The doo-doo duo, actually France and England, have been sending fighting units sweeping across Europe, conquering the continent with ease. They appear unstoppable, and perhaps this fact drove the Turks to such desperate measures. Unfortunately for Saalam Quiche Greenwood and friends, they never had a chance to put their prisoner to good use.

Shortly after the abduction, Turkish forces incurred heavy losses as far north as St. Petersburg, and as far south as the Ionian Sea. Turkish fighting units were breaking ranks and scattering in the face of the enemy, and the French navy approached Turkey's front door. The Turkish government collapsed like a house of cards as Emir Greenwood headed for the hills. With all of this going on, the palace was in utter chaos, allowing the brave Pontiff to walk out of captivity, and out of the Turkish grasp.

The tale of Peter Paul's gallant struggle to return to Rome through enemy lines is one marked with adventure, intrigue, romance, and untold dangers. It's a story too long to be told here, but it will be available soon in hard cover or paperback when the Pope's book "Boy, What a Long Walk" is released.

Peter Paul I will use his given name Czhaun Sczymichski (pronounced, John Smkthski), as a nom de plume. A condensed version of this epic adventure will appear in next month's READER'S DIGEST, and the story will also be serialized in several magazines including REDBOOK, HARPER'S BAZAAR, and PLAYBOY. The screen rights have been sold to 20th Century Fox, who expect to begin filming on location at the end of this war. The part of the Pope will be played by Bing Crosby, and the title will reportedly be changed to ON THE ROAD TO ROME. Bob Hope will play Emir Saalam Quich Greenwood.

LONDON-ITALY AND AUSTRIA: Good Gentlemen, the English Government salutes your valiant forces, now allied with us! Italy's move this turn (if you did it?) will be pure Genius! Austrian forces have pleasantly surprised us by carrying battle to the foe, and pushing him back. Viva Italia! Hoch Osterreich!

ROME-LONDON: Hope you enjoyed my zombie imitation. Now we can start having some real fun.

LONDON-CONSTANTINOPLE: Turk, you are fated to tough defense. Your forces will be hard to reduce, but reduced they inevitably will be. To quote ANIMAL HOUSE: "My advice is to drink heavily."

ROME-PARIS: Did you do it?

LONDON-RUSSIA: Al, I'm sorry. It had to be.

LONDON-ALL: Yours truly will be at MaryCon, 4 & 5 June. Any of you Bozos contemplating attending?? Hmmm???

"O, what a goodly outside falsehood
hath!"

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE I,111,102.

198200 WINTER 1904

Austria- Builds A VIE

Italy- Builds F ROM

England- F Bre-r-MID; Builds A LON

Russia- No Adj

France- Disbark F Gas

Turkey- A Arm-r-SMY

Germany- No Adj

198200 SPRING 1905 COMMANDER-LESS RUSSIAN FLEET SUNK BY BRITS! TURKISH CONSTANTINOPLE GARRISON PUT TO THE BAYONET BY GRENZER REGIMENTS!!!

Austria (MacFarlane): A Bul-GON; F ANG-s-A Bul-Gon; A Ser-BUL; A BOH-Sil; A VIE-Boh;

A TYA-s-A Vie-Boh.

England (Olsen):

F Nth-SKA; F NWY-s-F Nth-Ska; A LON-Mos/imp/; F Bel-ENG;

F Por-SPA(sc); F MID-s-F Por-Spa(sc).

France (Hugh):

A BRE-H; A GAS-Spa.

Germany (Swarts):

F Kie-BAL; A SWE-s-English A NWY; F DEN-s-English F Nth-Ska;

A MUN-Sil; A BUR-Mun; A RUH-s-A Bur-Mun; A Pic-PAR.

Italy (Palter):

A Tun-SYR; E ION & F EAS-o-A Tun-Syr; F Rom-TYS; A MAR-s-

German A Bur-Gas/NSO/.

Russia (J.Beck):

NOV Has F BIA; A ARM; A MOS; A SEP; FSKA/a/.

Turkey (Gorham):

A SMY-Arm; A ANK-Smy; A Con-H/a/.

Fall 1905 due August 5, 1983.

John MacFarlane has assumed the Austrian position.

**Would Stan Johnson, 10 Pine St., Edison, NJ 08817 please submit standby orders for Russia?

198200 Press-

ENGLAND-RUSSIA: I'll do anything to attain an alliance with you, so therefore I am ordering A Lon-Mos this season at your request. I hope your promises are sincere and that this will work -- I would hate to think that you would lie to me. I might even get into a snit.

FRANCE-GERMANY&ENGLAND: I thought you guys had some brains! Here it is, 1905, and you haven't eliminated me yet!! Why don't you dear fellows write each other to get a good game plan!!

ENGLAND-ITALY: Congratulations on your capture of Marseilles. It's nice to see that your unremitting diplomatic efforts have finally paid off. Now don't get overconfident, I would hate for the enormous flow of mail from you to stop.

FRANCE-WORLD: This is the last year, boys, to take advantage of E-G inept alliance as I can't hold on forever. They'll be coming after you next!

LONDON-BREST: A noble concession speech. Generally I myself like to invoke swans pulling a golden chariot up to Heaven... either that or I call my enemies bad names. How did you think "Fish" Brown got his name? It's far more than just the fact that he's all scaly.

GERMANY-FRANCE: My hat's off to the "old Corn Cob," easy it hasn't been.

ENGLAND-GERMANY: Your inspired play is starting to change my estimations of the abilities of Southerners. Imagine, I found me a decent one. They are SO rare!

FRANCE-AUSTRIA: Thanks for all your help -- Larry! You'll learn how to play one of these days???

OLEN-NIXON: But Mike, I am a poor boob that everybody picks on! Haven't you been reading Gary's letters?

BERLIN-VIENNA: Do you really think your "northern armies" are going anywhere against me?

* * *
"A scepter snatch'd with an unruly hand

Must be as bolsterously maintain'd as gained;

And he that stands upon a slippery place

Makes nioe of no vile hold to stay him up."

KING JOHN III, iv, 135.

1981AY FALL 1909 A/G DRAW FAILS! F/A/G DRAW PROPOSED!! AUSTRO-GERMAN PACT SEEMS SOLID!
WILL THIS GAME END WITH A PAC?

Austria (Lucas): A Gre-SMY; F AEG-c-A Grs-Smy; F EAS-s-A Gre-Smy; F BUL(sc)-Con
(English orders below SQ Chart): A SER-BUL; A RUM-s-A Ser-Bul; F Alb-ION; A UKR-s-A Sev; A SEV-s-
France (Winger): A TIA-Mun; A BUL-Bel; A PIC-s-A Bur-Bel; F Mid-BRE; A PAR-Bur.
Germany (Albrecht): A MUN-Ber; A PRU-Ber; A RUH-Kie; A DEN-Kie; F BEL-s-F Nth; F NTH-s-
F Bel; A LON-H; F Swe-BAL; A StP-LVN; A Mos-WAR.
Turkey (Hugh): A Smy-ARM; A War-SIL; A CON-Bul; F BLA-s-A Con-Bul; F Lpl-WAL.

Winter 1909 AND Spring 1910 due August 5, 1983. A F/A/G Draw has been proposed. Please vote with your next orders remembering that 'NVR'-'yes' vote.

1981AY 1909 Supply Center Chart

Austria- Home, Ven, Rum, Nap, Rom, Tun, Gre, Ser, Bul, SEV, SMY.....	(13)+2
France- Home, Por, Spa.....	(5) 0
Germany- Kie, Mun, Ber, Hol, War, Bsl, Sil, Nwy, StP, Mos, DEN.....	(10) 0
England- Lon, Den, Swe, KIE.....	(3) 0
England (Gray): F Nth-s-F Bel-Kie; F Bel-KIE; F ENG-Bel.	

1981AY Press-

TURKEY-FRANCE & ENGLAND: Is there a possibility of winning this situation or should we concede?? If I retain this position could someone please write and explain the entire situation?

PARIS-BERLIN: Time is the cavalry of some and the calvary of others; don't be too smug for all glory is fleeting. (Ron, didn't the Seer say something similar to Caesar in Act I, JULIUS CAESAR?)

BAKERSFIELD: "Beware the ides of March," is about all I can remember him saying (in Act I).

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MM-20 BECOMES 1983AY!! LET THE FIRST INVITATIONAL BLOOD-LETTING GAME BEGIN!

1983AY SPRING 1901 NEUTRALS FALL AS EUROPE PREPARES FOR WAR! SWISS PROCLAIM NEUTRALITY!

Austria (Stafford): A Bud-SER; F Tri-ALB; A Vie-GAL.
England (Olsen): F Edi-NWG; F Lon-NTH; A Lpl-YOR.
France (Lucas): F Bre-ENG; A Par-GAS; A Mar-SPA.
Germany (Albrecht): F Kie-DEN; A Ber-KIE; A Mun-RUH.
Italy (Arnawoodian): A Ven-TYA; A Rom-VEN; F Nap-ION.
Russia (Brown;CAN): F StP(sc)-BOT; F Sev-RUM; A Mos-SEV; A War-UKR.
Turkey (Brown;USA): F Ank-BLA; A Con-BUL; A Smy-CON.
Fall 1901 due August 5, 1983.

1983AY Press-

DAN STAFFORD, 1643 Graniteway Ln., Columbus, OH 43229 I think everyone had Dan's correct address. Sorry about printing the old one last time, Dan!

LONDON: Uh-oh. A game with both Lucas (#1 hobby female impersonator) and Woody (#1 hobby sleaze). What is this, the sicko game? Or what?

WOODY-STAFFORD: Still a brownie, huh Dan?! Paying your gamefee 1st. Even that won't help you and your Austria.

BERLIN: 'Tis a fine spring day in Germany! But, the Kaiser and his ministers are busy evaluating agricultural production reports from key areas around the nation. It seems that this is an unusually late, wet spring; experts are predicting shortages of barley, rye, wheat, and oats. The peasants are concerned that there will be enough to eat next winter; and the nobility are wondering where they will have to go for a good beer.

PARIS-EAST: Will the real Ron Brown please come forward? How will we be able to tell you guys apart? Don't tell me that the stamps you use will help, because I know for a fact that the Bakersfield Post Office sells and accepts Canadian stamps. Hey, will you guys promise that if I accidentally switch letters to you, you won't read them but will send them on to the other Ron Brown?

((More on the next page))

1983AY Press (Con'd)

WOODY-BROWN: At least Coburn realizes you need a handicap, Russia and Turkey in the same DIP game!

CONSTANTINOPLE: His Loving Majesty, the Great Sultan Walla-Walla Bing-Brown extends the arms of peace to each of the dignitaries currently visiting His Highness here in the Beautiful City of God. It is hoped that you will all find Turkey a peace-loving, cooperative nation!

ENGLAND-FRANCE & GERMANY: After that stirring testimonial from Fish Brown I know that neither of you would be so hard-hearted as to attack me. By the way, the one thing that Ron neglected to mention is that, in our three games together, he got one 4-way draw and two outright wins. Hey, no wonder he likes to play in games with me!!

MOSCOW: The Tsar welcomes the new leaders to this world and wishes everyone the best of luck -- as long as it's not at his expense. He is a very agreeable soul always willing to listen to, and consider, any proposals any of you may wish to put to him.

BERLIN-MOSCOW: Ron, it is time for you to participate in a sentence diagram exercise. Please, go to MM #58-59, page 2, paragraph 2, sentence 3; diagram this sentence for the class. Your discours in VD #79 was excellent, at least I enjoyed it.

ENGLAND-RUSSIS/TURKEY: Now remember, Rons, which Ron each of you is. Ron, you're the one who's stabbed me time and time again. Ron, you, on the other hand, only stabbed me once; then again you only had one chance. So let's try and not get too confused, OK?

WOODY-PUDGE: At least you're not near me in this one. After 4 games with you I understand why Mazzer attacks you in all your DIP games, Germany, Russia, France beware!

* * * * *

TWO NEW GAMES START WITH THIS ISSUE!!

MM-21 EUROPE BEGINS TO RE-ARM AS DIPLOMATS SCUTTLE TO HOME CAPITALS!

Austria: Bill Hugh, 17622 Jordan #20D, Irvine, CA 92715.

England: John H. Masters, 25711 No. Vistam Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355.

France: Jerry H. Jones, 1854 Wagner St. Pasadena, CA 91107.

Germany: Dan Kuszynski, 5100 Ming Ave. Apt. # , Bakersfield, CA 93309.

Italy: Timothy R. Haffey, 810 53rd Ave., Oakland, CA 94601.

Russia: Brian Sherin, 3932 Thousand Oaks, San Jose, CA 95136.

Turkey: Bill Schiwautz, 12212 Hart St., North Hollywood, CA 91605.

RULERS OF ALL SEVEN NATIONS HAVE EMBASSIES ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA!

FAR ... OUT!!

Spring 1901 is due August 5, 1983. Good luck! (What a bloodthirsty crew this one is!)

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MM-22 WINTER 1900 EUROPE PREPARES FOR WAR!!

Austria: Ken Hager, 412 Alderdale Circle, Anaheim, CA 92807.

England: Stan Johnson, 10 Pine St., Edison, NJ 08817.

France: Mark Rowell, 322 Curtner #C, Palo Alto, CA 94306. (415) 493-8075.

Germany: Mike Kettman, 1121 Church St. #312, Evanston, IL 60201.

Italy: John Baldwin, 5908 Fennel Way, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

Russia: Daniel Gorham, 800 So. Euclid Ave., Fullerton, CA 92634.

Turkey: Ted Pitas, Box 15, Emery Mills, ME 04031.

Spring 1901 is due August 5, 1983. Good luck!

* * * * *

"How oft the sight of means to do ill
deeds
Makes ill deeds done!"

KING JOHN IV, 11,219.

GAME OPENINGS

REGULAR DIPLOMACY - I will open a game of regular DIP when one of the current games comes to a conclusion. With the MACH game which is about to begin, that will give us 10 games running which is just right. There is currently no one signed up for this one. Preference list is accepted, gray press, \$6.00 gamefee plus a refundable \$3.00 NMR Deposit.

MACHIARELLI - I currently have six players who have either paid or have said they definitely want to play. I'm holding out for 8 players in this one, so I'm hoping that between now and next issue two more will join. Regardless, we will start it up next issue with the listing of country assignments, at which time I'll print the House rules for MACHIARELLI. If you have not yet paid, now is the time to do so and confirm your position. Paid and ready to start are Dan Palter (of PINK DRAGON fame), William C.S. Affleck Asch Lowe, and Jim Broshot. Others who have indicated a strong interest to play are: Mike Kettman, Don Scheifler, and Mike Cannon. Two other brave people out there want to try some MACH??

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MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY
LIST

Regular DIPLOMACY - Standing by are: Dan Gorham, Ken Hager, Jim Gray, Jim Bumpas, Al Rodriguez, Bill Hugh, Ron Kelly, Steve Arnawoodian, Mike Coburn, Jerry Lucas, Jim Williams, Stan Johnson, Scott Hanson, Paul Gardner, and Phil LaHue. Thanks, guys!!

MACHIARELLI - As this game will begin next issue, I'd really like to acquire a standby or two. Anyone interested? Pretty please...?

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MORE GAME OPENINGS

STAR FLEET BATTLES/FEDERATION SPACE - Mike Coburn has prepared a multi-player postal campaign game based upon this popular game. Now you can command the Federation's fleet of heavy cruisers and monstrous dreadnoughts. Or command the forces of the Klingon Empire, or the Romulan Warbirds. The choice is yours. For any of you STAR TREK fans who are interested, write to Mike Coburn, 5201 Dameret #28, Bakersfield, CA 93309 for more information. Each player will receive a map for the game and the rules. The gamefee is \$15.00 (mostly for costs of reproducing the start map).

* * * * *

"O God of battles! steel my soldiers'
hearts;
Possess them not with fear; take from
them now
The sense of reckoning, if the opposed
numbers
Pluck their hearts from them."

HENRY V, IV, i, 309.

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

((from Bill Highfield USNR))

Dear Ron,

Thanks for your sample copy of MURD'RING MINISTERS. I liked it a lot.

I do have one complaint, however, and that's that you said I'm a "staunch Reaganite". I am not a staunch Reaganite. I think Reagan is adequate -- the other politicians stink. I'm sure there's someone better -- but he's not a democrat. If you want the truth, I'm a staunch conservative Republican. In fact, I'd like to elect John Michalski for President! He wouldn't be the first Pollock in the Presidency! (Ha Ha).

I, too, like MACHIAVELLI. We in Rochester have played it about 8 times -- every time I'm either the plague master or the famine master. They can't stand it when I play because my plagues/famines destroy everything except my units. I really get lucky when it comes to destroying things.

I also heard that TSS is folding and I haven't heard from TACKY either -- therefore I've stopped trading with him.

I think us DIP players should do something about the USPS. They want another rate hike! Those dirty scumbuckets!

The NIXON Award should go to Kathy Byrne again. Only she could be a bitch like she is without trying, day after day. The award seems to have been made for her.

By the way, why did the orator of the NIXON Award slander our ex-president's name? After all, all he did was get caught. Every politician does what he did, it's just that he got caught. You should rename it the "CARTER Award" (after Jimmy Carter) for being the biggest dipshit. Then Woody would win it every year.

Oh well, enough complaining. Kathy Byrne should be the NIXON Award winner again. By the way ... I'll give MM a test-run. Also, you will receive a free copy of the super issue because you gave THE MODERN PATRIOT a nice review. Too many people see only the $\frac{1}{2}$ page of my politics and forget the $23\frac{1}{2}$ other pages. Thanks!!

America forever,

Midshipman 3c William Highfield USNR

((Thanks for writing, Bill, and for subbing. I'm glad you liked MM. I'm not ultra-conservative myself and most Republican philosophies and methods make me want to barf. But to each his own. I'm not sure how to take your remarks about Kathy Byrne. Since you are also a New Yorker, I'm assuming you know her fairly well to say what you did. But then, it's hard to take anything in your letter very seriously when you can insinuate that "Tricky Dick" was A-OK; the poor old boy just got caught. Good luck with TMP. Bill's "super issue" by the way was his Double Issue #12-13 which contained 132 pages of material! Hey, Bill, why not join the MACHIAVELLI game? Bye. - RB))

((from Jim Lahue))

Well Ron,

I hope that the next issue of MM comes a bit sooner than this one did! It is almost impossible to get any real diplomatic transactions going when I have only time to get one letter off to another country before I have to send in my orders to you (this east coast/west coast problem with time and data differences is becoming a real pain in the ass!). It's bad enough that there's a three hour time difference but we're at a great disadvantage in getting letters out to people because we get our copies of MM a couple of days later than those on the west coast! So it is really important to receive the thing on time!

I was going to send you a check so that you could enter me into the new game (MM-19) but I decided that it is probably wiser to get into a game here on the east coast if I enter another one. I'll write again next month.

Jim Lahue

((Con'd next pg.))

RRR (Con'd)

((Thanks for writing, Jim, and letting your feelings known. MM has been late on several occasions this year. Mostly because of problems of one kind or another. Your letter is very timely, because as I sit typing this, MM is currently 2 weeks late! There have been (and I'm sure there will be in the future) times when the zine has been tardy over the years. I'm sorry when it happens, as I know as a player myself how important timely results are. So, I'm going to make a decision once again that I made awhile back that I consequently did not stick to. With the last postage increase, I thought it would be best to insure that every issue with game results went out ASAP. I got away from that because of a recurring feeling that I wanted each issue to contain reading material and be at least 12 pages. This was responsible on several occasions for the zine being late. I am going back to the original decision. This will mean MM will become a warehouse zine for the most part, containing nothing but game results sent to you ASAP. An occasional all-reading issue will come out with the RRR, articles, etc. when the time allows and the inspiration burns. I think this compromise will make us all happy! As for your west coast/east coast argument -- sorry, I don't buy it. It may take a day longer for mail to go across the country rather than across the state, but it's really not much longer. But as for the zine being late, I'm guilty as charged. I try to allow for the delays, when they occur by lengthening the deadline so you still have the necessary time for negotiations. - RB))).

((from Scott Hanson))

Dear Ron,

I found your discussion on NVR interesting. You are right, of course, as the GM is always right! I have the same rule in my house rules, but I add the provision that $\frac{1}{2}$ the players must actually vote for a draw to pass. It prevents something from passing out of apathy. Also I announce in each game report that NVR is yes, so nobody has an excuse for not voting.

Scott

((Thanks for writing. It sounds like we agree pretty much on this aspect of GMing. Scott publishes IRKSOME, a good DIPzine! - RB))

((from Dave Garter))

Ron,

About 80HS. Jack Masters never did bother to report the final game stats for his games so since I wanted my $\frac{1}{2}$ CP to go on the record I sent in a final summary for 80HR (I have a complete BLACK FROG file). I also told Don that I could do the same for Jack's other games which is why 80HS made it in. I reported your situation of getting the draw without submitting orders and left it to Don to decide. Under the house rules that I use the draw would have taken precedence over the player being replaced but then I don't plan on folding.

Yeah, it was quite an interesting lineup. I wasn't aware that Ms. King was a Negro. Are there any male Negros out there who play by mail.

Anyway, re: Tim Haffey. As a player I just love NVR-Yes cos I can count on picking up easy draws from players forgetting to vote. As a GM I have adopted the Pearson rule of NVR-No but NMR=Yes. But once again, as in VoD, the player knows the situation, so . . . Caveat Emptor!

Best,
Dave

((Thanks for writing, Dave. Dave's 1st paragraph refers to a BF game I was in, 80KJ "VIP". Jack informed me that the game had ended as no one vetoed the concession to me that was made with the last published results. However, Jack never did mail

((Con'd next pg))

RRR (Con'd)

((the final results out to us. I kinda understand now why he didn't. So, I think I'll go through and look up my old BLACK FROGS too and do a final SC Chart and send it to Jack for approval and hope he can verify it and send it on to the BNC for me. I'm sure Jack will have some say about it and won't ignore the request. So much for that. I also as a player like the NVR=Yes vote and that's why it's incorporated here in MMI Bye! - RB))

DAN STAFFORD'S INFLUENTIAL PLAYER RANKINGS
Update ---- 6/9/83

Rank	Name	IPR	# of Wins & Draws	Latest	# of Wins	# of 82-83 Gamestarts
1.	Lee Kendter Sr.	9.1	16	80HE	7	1
2.	Kathy Byrne	8.4	12	81HP	6	10
3.	Jack Masters	7.3	10	80KZ	6	1
4.	Don Ditter	6.2	11	81X	4	2
5.	Dave Carter	5.3	11	81AO	2	-
6.	John Caruso	5.0	10	80LE	2	1
7.	Ron Brown (USA)	5.0	8	80KV	4	3
8.	Bill Hart	4.8	7	80HS	4	1
9.	Eric Verheiden	4.7	13	79IK	2	-
10.	Dan Stafford	4.6	7	81K	3	6
11.	Ron Kelly	4.5	10	80CW	3	-
12.	Stan Johnson	4.5	7	80IO	3	1
13.	Arturo Guadardo	4.4	8	81J	2	1
14.	Bob Sergeant	4.4	7	80IZ	4	2
15.	Dick Martin	4.3	8	81HP	3	2
16.	Rick Kassel	4.1	6	79HX	3	-
17.	Dave Ditter	4.0	8	81HQ	2	3
18.	Eric Kirchner	4.0	8	80CX	2	-
19.	Bob Osuch	3.9	6	82C	3	-
20.	Tom Thorsen	3.9	6	81S	3	1

This is a Calhamer-type rating that is kept current by only rating the last 4-5 years of games, by Boardman Number. This update includes only DNEd games 1977-1982, taken from EVERYTHINGs #42-56.

Win	=	1.0
2-way draw	=	.5
3-way draw	=	.3
4-way draw	=	.2
5-way draw	=	.1
6-way draw	=	.0 (tie breaker)

If you want a copy of the entire list
of 40 players, write to Dan Stafford,
1643 Graniteway Ln., Columbus, OH 43229.
Enclose a 20¢ stamp.

1983 RUNESTONE POLL RESULTS IN!

Bruce Linsey reports in VD #81 the results of the Seventh Annual North American Zine Poll as follows:

1. EUROPA EXPRESS (Gary Coughlan)

(Con'd next pg.)

1983 RUNESTONE POLL RESULTS (Con'd)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2. <u>DIPLOMACY BY MOONLIGHT</u> (Eric Ozog) | 16. <u>PERALANDRA</u> (Pete Gaughan) |
| 3. <u>SNAFU</u> (Ron Brown ((Can.))) | 17. <u>NORTH SEALTH, WEST GEORGE</u> (Terry |
| 4. <u>JUST AMONG FRIENDS</u> (Al Pearson) | 18. <u>CHEESECAKE</u> (Andy Lischett) Tallman) |
| 5. <u>APPALLING GREED</u> (Mark Larzelere) | 19. <u>COAT OF ARMS</u> (Steve Arnawoodian) |
| 6. <u>SLEEPLESS KNIGHTS</u> (Dave Carter) | 20. <u>DIPLOMACY DIGEST</u> (Mark Berch) |
| 7. <u>THE PRINCE</u> (Jim Meinel) | 21. <u>MURD'RING MINISTERS</u> (Ron Fish Brown) |
| 8. <u>VOICE OF DOOM</u> (Bruce Linsey) | 22. <u>ANDUIN</u> (Eric Kane) |
| 9. <u>THE DOGS OF WAR</u> (John Daly) | 23. <u>PARANOLACS' MONTHLY</u> (Jack Fleming) |
| 10. <u>ENVOY</u> (Roy Henricks) | 24. <u>LONE STAR DIPLOMAT</u> (Mike Conner) |
| 11. <u>DIPLOMACY WORLD</u> (Rod Walker) | 25. <u>EVERYTHING</u> (BNC) |
| 12. <u>MAGUS</u> (Steve Langley) | 26. <u>MIDLIFE CRISIS</u> (Paul Rauterberg) |
| 13. <u>BUSHWACKER</u> (Fred Davis) | 27. <u>EMHAIN MACHA</u> (Mike Mills) |
| 14. <u>WHITESTONIA</u> (John Caruso) | 28. <u>NO FIXED ADDRESS</u> (Steve Hutton) |
| 15. <u>XENOGOGIC</u> (Larry Peery) | 29. <u>THIRTY MILES OF BAD ROAD</u> (Mark Luedi) |
| | 30. <u>RETALIATION</u> (Dick Martin) |

You may receive a complete copy of the Poll Results by writing to Randolph Smyth, "Runestone Poll", 212 Aberdeen St., S.E. Medicine Hat, Alta. T1A 0R1 CANADA and sending him \$1.00 (no US stamps). He will probably see the entire results in a few zines shortly.

The Subzines were rated separately this year. They finished as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <u>MOS EISLEY SPACEPORT</u> (John Michalski) | 6. <u>FREE SPEECH ALLEY</u> (?) |
| 2. <u>HUMBOLDT</u> (?) | 7. <u>KATHY'S KORNER</u> (Kathy Byrne) |
| 3. <u>MASS MURDERS</u> (Bob Osuch) | 8. <u>EXPLETIVE DELETED</u> (Tom Swider) |
| 4. <u>STRANGE DOINGS</u> (Mike Mazzer) | 9. <u>ALEX'S COLUMN</u> (Alex Lord) |
| 5. <u>FIAT BELLUM</u> (Don Williams?) | 10. <u>VERTIGO</u> (?) |

About out of space - some of the top finishers in the Gamesmaster Poll were:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Doug Beyerlein | 5. Andy Lischett | 9. Gary Goughlan |
| 2. John Daly | 6. Jim Meinel | 10. Ronald Brown (Can.) |
| 3. Bob Osuch | 7. Mark Larzelere | 11. Jack Fleming |
| 4. Dave Carter | 8. Steve Heinowski | 12. Judy Winsome |

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!! - Because of the lateness of this issue, all deadlines for ALL games are changed to August 19, 1983. All games have the NEW DEADLINE of

AUGUST 19, 1983*

Your Sub expires with Issue # _____

STANDBY CALL _____ - Please see game _____ on page _____.

MURD'RING MINISTERS

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